

Wheat: Up big. Bread and cereal won't be any cheaper. Will the farmer see this windfall? Not likely.

Corn: The same thing. Will the farmer do any better with the much higher cost of corn? No.

Copper: Used in so many of our mechanical and electrical devices, it is going up, making it harder to wire our homes.

The bottom line is: Everything you need is much more expensive, thanks to Biden policy.

SENATE MUST STOP INHUMANITY OF POLICE BRUTALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm. I rise unbought and unbossed, a liberated Democrat.

And I rise today, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of pain in my heart. I am saddened. And I am, quite frankly, very, very disgusted and disappointed.

I saw a news story this morning that brought me to tears. I could not believe what I saw and I heard. I would like to share now some passages from a story in The New York Times that relate to what I saw this morning, what I heard this morning. I would ask that persons who are very sensitive to things involving pain and suffering be mindful of what I am about to do and might govern themselves appropriately because this is very painful to hear and very sad to understand that it actually occurred.

This story is styled "Footage Shows Louisiana Troopers Punching and Dragging Man Who Died."

I was born in Louisiana, in New Orleans. I have friends there. I have some sense of what the State is like, but even this exceeds some of what I know can happen in Louisiana.

This article goes on to read: "Relatives of Ronald Greene," no relationship as far as I know, "were initially told that he had died from injuries he sustained in a crash after he failed to stop for a traffic violation outside Monroe, Louisiana, in May 2019, according to a lawyer for the family."

May 2019. You can do the math. That was some time ago. Some of us would say it was a long time ago.

"Body-camera footage obtained and published by the Associated Press on Wednesday showed Mr. Greene, 49, screaming, 'I'm sorry,' and 'I'm scared,' after troopers opened the door to his car and jolted him with a stun gun after a high-speed chase."

I recall instructions from my mother. Her instructions when I was a young child were to never run from the police. Never run from the police. She was emphatic about it, and she explained why. Never run from the police, she explained to me, her young son, because

the police will catch you and when they do, they are going to whip you. She explained to me that the police are of the opinion that if you run, a part of your punishment is a good whipping. This is what my mother explained to me as a child. So, we find today Mr. Greene saying, "I'm sorry," and, "I'm scared."

"'I'm scared,' Mr. Greene screamed, according to the video." He went on to say, "'I'm your brother. I'm scared,'" pleading, if you will. The "pleading" is what I am adding. That is not in the story, but pleading.

"According to the AP, which said it had obtained 46 minutes of video footage from the encounter, one trooper wrestled Mr. Greene to the ground, put him in a choke hold," some things bear repeating, "put him in a choke hold and punched him in the face. Another trooper briefly dragged him by his ankle shackles as he lay on the ground, according to the footage."

We know about choke holds. We know about knees on necks. We know that people are not always treated with respect.

Mind you, Mr. Greene, so far, has not exhibited a weapon. Yes, he was running, in the sense that he was driving away from the police. Yes, he should have stopped by standards that we like to employ. But does running from the police, driving your car away from the police, does this entitle the police to kick, tase multiple times, and drag a person?

"Mr. Greene was jolted again with the stun gun while he was on the ground and handcuffed." On the ground, handcuffed, and jolted again with a stun gun. This is what the footage shows, according to this news article.

"The AP reported that the troopers, who were White," again, some things bear repeating, "AP reported that the troopers, who were White, left Mr. Greene, who was Black, facedown and moaning for more than 9 minutes, as they wiped blood from their hands and face."

Mr. Greene is facedown, pleading, 9 minutes. The officers are wiping blood from their hands and face.

"'I hope this guy ain't got AIDS,' one of the troopers said on the video, adding an expletive."

He was concerned for himself at a time when a man is bleeding and in need of attention, medical attention, I might add. Officers have a duty to provide medical attention. When we are in combat with enemies, enemies who would destroy us, destroy our country, if we catch an enemy and that enemy is hurt, in need of medical attention, we provide aid and comfort.

Mr. Greene was not an enemy to the United States of America. He wasn't an enemy of this country. Mr. Greene wasn't trying to kill these officers.

□ 1245

Yes, he resisted. But does resistance afford or grant the officers the legal

right to abuse him to the extent that he finds himself on the ground bleeding; they find themselves wiping blood from their hands and their face, and then concluding, "I hope this guy ain't got AIDS"?

There are people who don't want to hear the things that I have to say about invidious discrimination. They don't want to hear it because they don't want to acknowledge that it exists. Not only does it exist, it exists more than we know.

But for the body cameras, this wouldn't be in The New York Times. It is in The New York Times because there is now evidence, clear and convincing evidence, that it actually occurred. But there are people who don't want to hear a Member come to the floor of the House of Representatives and call these things to the attention of the world.

We call them to the attention of the world, because the world needs to know we have been right for years upon years, decades on decades, in making known these issues that have been ignored.

Now the truth is being revealed. George Floyd, the truth has been revealed. Ronald Greene, the truth has been revealed.

Let's go on. This story indicates that: "The Louisiana State Police said on Wednesday"—mind you, this is Wednesday in May of 2019—"The Louisiana State Police said on Wednesday that the investigation into Mr. Greene's death 'remains under review by Federal and State authorities.'"

My dear friends, my dear brothers, and my dear sisters, if an animal—let's say a dog—if they had treated a dog the way they treated Mr. Greene, a human being, the investigation would be over, the punishment would have been assessed, and I would dare say that they would have received punishment much more severe than what I am about to read to you.

The article states: "One of the troopers, who was involved in the encounter . . . was temporarily suspended and is back on the force."

Some things bear repeating.

"One of the troopers who was involved in the encounter . . . was temporarily suspended and is back on the force." This is what the State police said.

I am not sure that the humane society would have allowed this to go without some additional repercussions, lawful repercussions, I might add, if an animal, a dog, were treated the way Mr. Greene was treated.

Remember, Mr. Greene was pleading: "I'm your brother. I'm scared." Begging, "I'm sorry," he said.

Dear friends, Mr. Greene's death was ruled accidental and was attributed to cardiac arrest. How can we allow this to stand?

The family commissioned an independent autopsy that found severe injuries to Mr. Greene's head and skull and several wounds to his face. But the

officers concluded his death was accidental. This is my commentary now. His death was accidental and was attributed to cardiac arrest.

In the world that I live in, this is called a coverup. In the world that I live in, this video is the evidence needed, coupled with the time that has elapsed, to substantiate the coverup.

There may be more evidence. There may be more evidence that would be of benefit. But my dear friends, for a human being to be treated as Mr. Greene was treated and then have one person temporarily suspended—there may be other things that have occurred. This is a news story. All of the facts may not be in. One person suspended, and it reported that his death was ruled accidental, attributed to cardiac arrest.

We must pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. What more do we need? We have George Floyd, his death. We have now Mr. Greene. These incidents—as they are called by people who live in polite society—these incidents continue to occur. What more do we need to pass legislation in the Senate of the United States of America, where we have people who have taken an oath to protect? What do we need to pass the legislation that will ban chokeholds? This man was choked.

What do we need to pass legislation so that lawsuits can continue, so that they won't be dismissed on grounds that are archaic? It may not be insane, but it is an inanity. What do we need to end this inanity? What is going on in the Senate, the Senate of the United States of America, land of "liberty and justice"—I say the Pledge of Allegiance—"for all." I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I love my country, but I don't love what is happening in the United States Senate.

It is time for this piece of legislation to receive its day. It ought to be voted on, immediately, if not sooner. What is going on in the United States Senate? How can we tolerate this level of inhumanity? What is going on in the United States Senate?

At some point, on the infinite continuum that we call time, we are all going to have to account for our time. And on that day of judgment, it won't be based upon how many millionaires did you try to help because you were a Member of Congress and you had the opportunity to pass laws to benefit millionaires and billionaires. That won't be what your judgment is based on. It won't be based on how many full bellies did you try to feed. At some point, we are going to have to account for our actions. At some point, judgment is going to be how did you treat the least, the last, and the lost among us.

Judgment is not going to be how did you treat the well-off, the well-heeled, and the well-to-do. They always fare well. The judgment is going to be how did you treat the Greene's of the world, how did you treat the Floyds of the world.

Senators, I beg you, do not allow rules that benefit the lawlessness that is taking place to prevent you from doing the righteous thing. You have an opportunity to move on this legislation. I beg that you would do so.

I am but one person. I am sure that there are others who would agree with some of what I have said. But I come to the floor to say this, because I want my record to show that when I had a chance to stand up against injustice, I did so.

I am saddened by what happened to Mr. Greene, to Mr. Floyd, to Ms. Breonna Taylor, and to many others whose names that you don't know: Joe Campos Torres, thrown in a bayou in Houston, Texas, handcuffed; Billy Keith Joyvies; Randall Alan Webster, chased down the Freeway, shot; Ida Lee Delaney, shot out on the freeway in Houston. There are many names that you don't know. But if you do the research, you will find that in each one of those cases, there were concerns related to the way the police handled them.

So I have done what I can do today. But if God gives me the strength, I will be back again and again and again and again. I want my record to show I gave it my best, I tried, and I will continue to try.

At this time, I have a colleague who desires time. I am going to yield to him as much time as he may consume of the time that I have left.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. GREEN is not just a passionate representative of the people of the Ninth District of Texas, he speaks for millions and millions of people across the country. It has been very moving to hear him talk about the problem of police brutality and violence, which threatens our social contract.

The whole purpose of the social contract is that we will be safer inside of it than we will be outside of it. And, yet, the social contract is not working for a lot of people in a lot of different parts of the country.

So I thank him for his passionate leadership on behalf of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and for having us address this central problem.

□ 1300

I appreciate your yielding to me. I wanted to spend a few minutes talking about what is going on in the Middle East. It has been a brutal week for Israeli and Palestinian civilians, as hundreds have been killed in the savage violence that is engulfing the Middle East now.

This week I had the opportunity to meet on Zoom with young Palestinians and Israelis who are part of a group called New Story Leadership, which is a peace-building group that, since 2009, has brought Israeli and Palestinian interns to come work on Capitol Hill.

I have had these interns work for me for, I think, 5 or 6 years, really ever

since I arrived in the House of Representatives. They come to work, and they come to interact with each other. They come to learn about democracy and human rights from America, a country that was conceived with the dream of human rights and equality for everybody. Although that was not remotely the reality for a lot of people, but it has been the struggle for human rights and for equality that has defined the American ethos and the American spirit.

So I asked these young Israeli and Palestinian former interns for me and for other Members of Congress, as part of the New Story Leadership program, to write to me about what is going on in their lives. Because too often, of course, our sense of what is happening in a foreign land is filtered through media, and it is filtered through different kinds of party propaganda. I wanted to hear directly from them. I thought I would share with you some of the responses I got. I want to enter them into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Here is one from a Jewish Israeli citizen named Meshi: My name is Meshi. I am an Israeli American, currently living in Tel Aviv. I was born and raised in northern Israel, where my early childhood was spent under rocket fire from Hezbollah. Today, in my late 20s, I am under rocket fire from Hamas. In the last week or so, I have taken shelter in my building's old stairway. I have run for cover in the street. I saw the lynching of an Arab citizen by a Jewish mob on live TV. And I worried for my brother-in-law, who had to leave my sister and their newborn son at home after he was called into reserve duty.

Here's one from a Jewish Israeli citizen named Eran: My name is Eran Nissan. I was an intern in Congressman RASKIN's office in 2019. I became a peace activist because of my military service, where I served as a combat soldier in the Israeli Special Forces. For 4 years, I was sent to countless missions to all of Israel's borders: Lebanon, Syria, but mainly the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I experienced combat. I lost friends and I lost classmates. These past 2 weeks have been the scariest and most depressing time of my entire life. I spent the last week monitoring right-wing groups on social media, where terrorist organizations planned and organized lynchings and riots throughout Israel. I did this as part of my digital activism, working with former intelligence officers turned progressive political activists. My neighborhood in Jaffa used to be a beacon of coexistence and cooperation between Jews and Arabs. Now it is a war zone. The sounds of exploding stun grenades from the nearby riots are only disturbed by the sirens sending everyone into the shelters and stairways.

This is from Marwa, who is a Palestinian on the West Bank: My name is Marwa Odeh. I am a Palestinian American from Hewara in Area C of the West Bank. I was an intern in Congressman

RASKIN's office in 2018. This year, a Muslim high holy day became a day of chaos and despair for my family. On the day of Eid, May 13, my cousin Yehya, who I used to play soccer with in my grandparents' backyard, was shot in the eye with a rubber bullet fired by an Israeli soldier. The rubber bullet tore open his left eyeball, leaving Yehya blind in one eye. After that military action, my mother and my baby sister Jena traveled to the hospital and were caught in a barrage of tear gas and rubber bullets. Jena, who is just 5 years old, explained to me the horror and fear that she went through: "I was choking and my eyes were burning. We were just going to see Yehya. We did nothing," she told me in a FaceTime call that night.

Here's one from Lujayn, a Palestinian who lives in East Jerusalem: My name is Lujayn. I am a Palestinian living in East Jerusalem, in a small village called Beit Hanina, which is surrounded by settlements. One of the most basic human rights is to feel safe and secure, but my family and I cannot feel safe in East Jerusalem. We can't feel safe because settlers under the protection of Israeli soldiers are chanting "Death to Arabs" and attacking Palestinians in my neighborhood. I can't feel safe because an Israeli soldier threw a stun grenade at my father as we walked out of Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. I can't feel safe walking to the market and even sitting in my own house. During the past few days, I have been telling my sisters and parents to turn off the lights at home so that no one will think we are there. When I traveled to my university a few days ago to get my diploma, I felt like a walking target because I was constantly afraid I would be attacked just because I am a Palestinian.

Here's one from Danni, a Jewish Israeli: My name is Danni, and I am a Jewish Israeli. I am engaged to an Israeli combat soldier, and we live in Haifa, which is known as the city of co-existence. In Haifa, I study and work with Arabs and Jews alike. Last week, our city was hit by a wave of violence by citizens against citizens. Violent extremists have roamed the streets, terrorizing people and vandalizing people. Dear American people, I know that you understand how dangerous it is to stay silent when you see discrimination, oppression, and violence. It is simply unsustainable. We need to move past the status quo so that I can marry my fiancé instead of him going to war, only to return to a broken city.

Here's one from Tasnim, who lives in the Gaza: My name is Tasnim, and I am a Palestinian from Gaza. My family and I left Gaza during the 2008 war. Unfortunately, when we moved, my sister was separated from her children and they stayed in Gaza. Today, my two nieces, Iama and Heba, who are young and dream of traveling the world, still live there in Gaza. Since the airstrikes have started, we have been calling them every single day to check to see

if they are still alive. We hear of constant attacks where kids are being buried under the rubble of their own houses, along with their dreams. We are constantly afraid that the next time we call them, we will not be able to reach them. The fear and stress that come with trying to connect with my family in Gaza is unimaginable.

Mr. Speaker, forgive me, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 28 minutes remaining.

Mr. RASKIN. This is from Baha, a Palestinian from the West Bank: My name is Baja Ebdeir, and I am from the occupied village of Beit Nattiff. Now I live in Beit Jala. This past Ramadan, Israel refused to issue permits for Palestinians to observe prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque. However, my father was one of the few luckiest to be issued a permit for a medical appointment he had at the hospital in East Jerusalem. It was not the medical appointment itself that got my father all excited and happy, but the fact that he could use it to observe the holiest night of Ramadan, Laylit Al-Qadr, the night of decree, at Al-Aqsa Mosque, where our destiny is determined by God for the whole year. Before he left, my father told us, "After all, I have a permit, what could happen?"

Actually, a lot happened in the two days my father spent at Al-Aqsa. As the evening went by, an army of Israeli soldiers began to increase in number. As soon as the Imam uttered "Allah Akbar," God is the greatest, to start off the holiest night prayer, Israeli soldiers threw gas canisters at worshippers. As a result of the excessive amount of gas my father inhaled, his severe coughing continues until today and his eyes are as red as blood.

Usually my father never shares his fears with me, but this time he opened up and I listened with awe. With every cough, my father vividly remembers Al-Aqsa Mosque as a war zone where Israeli soldiers shot rubber bullets and threw gas canisters at Palestinians. Hundreds were injured and many of the elderly lost their lives on the holiest night.

Here is one from Doron, a Jewish Israeli citizen: My name is Doron, and I am an Israeli who has lived in Jerusalem for the last decade. Since 2009, I have participated in peaceful protests in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah every week. I was touched to see how during the recent few months, these protests have gained support and momentum in Israel, Palestine, and internationally. Suddenly, activists in the region and around the world demanded justice for the residents of Sheikh Jarrah, who have been evicted from their homes. Unfortunately, everything was disrupted by the recent escalation, which was orchestrated to undermine the local movement in Jerusalem before it was able to achieve any gains. Jerusalem is the home of Israelis and Palestinians, and it should be equal, free, and safe for all its inhabitants.

Residents of Sheikh Jarrah should not be afraid to be evicted from their homes at any moment.

Here is one from DIALA, a Palestinian citizen of Israel: My name is DIALA, and I am a Palestinian citizen of Israel from Nazareth. During the past few weeks, I have protested alongside many Palestinian women against evictions in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem. I am a feminist and I strongly believe that the struggle for gender equality is deeply connected to this struggle. As the police cracked down on us, a group of peaceful protestors consisting primarily of women, an Israeli police officer kicked me and pushed me to the ground. As I lay on the ground, he continued to kick me, aiming at my legs and ribs. Throughout my life, I have been told repeatedly that I have full and equal rights as a citizen of Israel. However, this week, I have witnessed the oppressive brutality at play against me and my people.

Mr. Speaker, we owe these young people a different future. In Israel and in the West Bank and in Gaza, we owe them a future of peace and justice and prosperity, where rockets are not raining down on the people of Israel or the people in the West Bank or the people in Gaza. We owe them a future where every young person can cultivate his or her own creative talents and dreams for the future. We owe them a future of mutual security for all sides and human rights for all people.

Everyone knows that the first casualty of war is the truth. We want to make sure that the stories that people are living on the ground are not consumed in any kind of party propaganda.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the voices of young Israelis and young Palestinians suffering through this brutal cycle of violence and ethnic conflict and systemic injustice. We owe it to them to call openly and loudly on Prime Minister Netanyahu and on Hamas to accept an immediate ceasefire and an end to all violence against civilians. This is the precondition for moving forward to real peace and respect for the human rights of all.

I applaud President Biden and his administration's commitment to ending this violence. I hope that America will, again, with the new administration, be able to resume a forward-looking and constructive role in addressing all of the problems that beset the people in Israel and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this week I met on Zoom with young Israelis and Palestinians who are part of New Story Leadership, a peacebuilding group that, since 2009, has brought dozens of Palestinian and Israeli youth to work as summer interns on Capitol Hill and to share their stories with Members of Congress. Here are a few of the stories my former interns and other participants sent me about the horrific events of the last few weeks:

MESHI—JEWISH ISRAELI

My name is Meshi, I'm an Israeli American, currently living in Tel-Aviv. I was born and raised in northern Israel where my early childhood was spent under rocket fire from Hezbollah, and today, in my late twenties, I'm under rocket fire from Hamas. In the last week or so I've taken shelter in my building's old stairway, run for cover in the street, saw the lynching of an Arab citizen by a Jewish mob on live TV, and worried for my brother-in-law that had to leave my sister and their newborn son at home after he was called into reserve duty.

ERAN—JEWISH ISRAELI

My name is Eran Nissan. I was an intern in Congressman Jamie Raskin's office in 2019. I became a peace activist because of my military service, where I served as a combat soldier in the Israeli special forces. For four years I was sent to countless missions to all of Israel's borders—Lebanon, Syria, but mainly the West Bank and the Gaza strip. I experienced combat, I lost friends and classmates.

These past two weeks have been the scariest and most depressing time of my life. I spent the last week monitoring Right Wing groups on social media, where Jewish terrorist organizations planned and organized lynching and riots throughout Israel. I did this as part of my digital activism, working with ex-intelligence officers turned progressive political activists. My neighborhood in Jaffa used to be a beacon of coexistence and cooperation between Jews and Arabs. Now it is a war zone. The sounds of exploding stun grenades from the nearby riots are only disturbed by the sirens, sending everyone to the shelters and stairways.

MARWA—WEST BANK PALESTINIAN

My name is Marwa Odeh, I am a Palestinian American from Hewara in Area C of the West Bank. I was an intern in Congressman JAMIE RASKIN's office in 2018.

This year, a Muslim high holy day became a day of chaos and despair for my family. On the day of Eid, May 13th, my cousin, Yehya, who I used to play soccer with in my grandparents' backyard, was shot in the eye with a rubber bullet fired by an Israeli soldier. The rubber bullet tore open his left eyeball, leaving Yehya blind in one eye. After that military action, my mother and my baby sister, Jena, traveled to the hospital and were caught in a barrage of tear gas and rubber bullets. Jena, who is just 5 years old, explained to me the horror and fear she went through. "I was choking and my eyes were burning. We were just going to see Yehya, we did nothing," she told me in a FaceTime call that night.

LUJAYN—PALESTINIAN EAST-JERUSALEMITE

My name is Lujayn and I am a Palestinian living in East Jerusalem in a small village called Beit Hanina, which is surrounded by settlements.

One of the most basic human rights is to feel safe and secure, but my family and I cannot feel safe in East Jerusalem. We can't feel safe because settlers under the protection of Israeli soldiers are chanting "Death to Arabs" and attacking Palestinians in my neighborhood. I can't feel safe because an Israeli soldier threw a stun grenade at my father as we walked out of Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. I can't feel safe walking to the market, and even sitting in my own house. During the past few days, I have been telling my sisters

and parents to turn off the lights at home so that no one will think we are there. When I traveled to my university a few days ago to get my diploma, I felt like a walking target because I was constantly afraid that I would be attacked, just because I am a Palestinian.

DANNI—JEWISH ISRAELI

My name is Danni, and I am a Jewish Israeli. I am engaged to an Israeli combat soldier, and we live in Haifa, which is known as the city of coexistence. In Haifa, I study and work with Arabs and Jews alike. Last week our city was hit by a wave of violence by citizens against citizens. Violent extremists have roamed the streets terrorizing people and vandalizing property. Dear American people, I know that you understand how dangerous it is to stay silent when you see discrimination, oppression, and violence. It is simply unsustainable. We need to move past the status quo, so that I can marry my fiancé instead of him going to war, only to return to a broken city.

TASNIM—GAZAN

My name is Tasnim, and I am a Palestinian from Gaza. My family and I left Gaza during the 2008 war. Unfortunately, when we moved, my sister was separated from her children, and they stayed in Gaza. Today, my two nieces, lama and Heba, who are young and dream of traveling the world, still live in Gaza. Since the air strikes have started, we have been calling them every single day to check if they are still alive. We hear of constant attacks where kids are being buried under the rubble of their own houses along with their dreams. We are constantly afraid that the next time we call them, we will not be able to reach them. The fear and stress that come with trying to connect with my family in Gaza is unimaginable.

BAHA—PALESTINIAN FROM THE WEST BANK

My name is Baha Ebdeir and I am from the occupied village of Beit Nattiff, but now I live now in Beit Jala.

This past Ramadan, Israel refused to issue permits for Palestinians to observe prayers at Al-Aqsa mosque. However, my father was one of the few luckiest to be issued a permit for a medical appointment he had at the Hospital in East Jerusalem. It was not the medical appointment itself that got my father all excited and happy, but the fact that he could use it to observe the holiest night of Ramadan, Laylat Al-Qadr (The Night of Decree), at Al-Aqsa mosque, where our destiny is determined by God for the whole year.

Before he left, my father told us: "After all, I have a permit, what could happen?"

Actually, a lot happened in the two days my father spent at Al-Aqsa.

As the evening went by, an army of Israeli soldiers began to increase in number. As soon as the Imam uttered Allah Akbar (God is the Greatest) to start off the holiest night prayer, Israeli soldiers started throwing gas canisters at worshipers. As a result of the excessive amount of gas my father inhaled, his severe coughing continues until today and his eyes are as red as blood.

Usually, my father never shares his fears with me, but this time he opened up and I listened with awe. With every cough, my father vividly remembers Al-Aqsa mosque as a war zone where Israeli soldiers unapologetically shot rubber bullets and threw gas canisters at Palestinians for merely being Palestinians.

Hundreds were injured and many of the elderly lost their lives on the holiest night.

DORON—JEWISH ISRAELI

My name is Doron and I am an Israeli, who has lived in Jerusalem for the last decade. Since 2009, I have participated in peaceful protests in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah every week. I was touched to see how during the recent few months, these protests have gained support and momentum in Israel, Palestine and internationally. Suddenly, activists in the region and around the world demanded justice for the Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah, who have been evicted from their homes by Jewish Settlers. Unfortunately, everything was disrupted by the recent escalation, which was orchestrated to undermine the local movement in Jerusalem, before it was able to achieve any gains. Jerusalem is the home of Israelis and Palestinians and it should be equal, free and safe for all its inhabitants. Residents of Sheikh Jarrah should not be afraid to be evicted of their homes at any moment.

MOE—PALESTINIAN FROM THE WEST BANK

My name is Moe and I am a Palestinian from the West Bank, I interned with Congressman Jamie Raskin in 2019.

Seven months ago I got married. This year, my wife and I celebrated our first Ramadan together. We were so excited to celebrate it together with both our families, but her family was unable to travel to see us, because all the roads had been closed and settlers have been patrolling the streets between the cities ready to attack Palestinian travelers. We can't see our family and we can't travel anywhere.

I have heard about the danger that awaits us if we travel outside of our village and I am terrified. I am worried for the safety of my three brothers and father, who have jobs that require them to travel to Israel. Now, they are stuck at home, unable to travel because they have been warned that if they try to cross the border between the West Bank and Israel, their lives would be in danger.

DIALA—PALESTINIAN CITIZEN OF ISRAEL

My name is Diala, and I am a Palestinian citizen of Israel from Nazareth.

During the past few weeks, I have protested alongside many Palestinian women against evictions in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem. I am a feminist and I strongly believe that the struggle for gender equality is deeply connected to this struggle.

As the police cracked down on us, a group of peaceful protestors consisting primarily of women, Israeli supremacy translated into direct violence against Palestinian women. An Israeli Police officer kicked me and pushed me to the ground. As I lay on the ground, he continued to kick me aiming at my legs and ribs.

Throughout my life, I have been told repeatedly that I have full and equal rights as a citizen of Israel. However, this week I've witnessed the oppressive sexist and racist police brutality at play against me and my people.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that the first casualty of war is the truth. The facts of people's lives are consumed in propaganda. I urge my colleagues to listen to the voices of young Israelis and Palestinians suffering through this brutal violence, ethnic conflict and systemic injustice. We owe it to them to call openly and loudly on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and on Hamas to accept an immediate ceasefire and an end to all violence. This

is the precondition for moving forward to real peace and respect for the human rights of all.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his sage recitation. I did listen, and I am grateful that the gentleman has seen the need to be a friend to persons who are clearly in harm's way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1315

SUPPORTING ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I was speaking with my friend, Congressman GREEN. And he is my friend. We have differences on issues, but he is a brother, and, anyway, it is nice to have friends.

I appreciated my colleague, Mr. RASKIN, pointing to the violence in the Middle East. That is a tremendous problem. I am going through a new book right now by Os Guinness, "Magna Carta of Humanity," and one of the points he makes early on in the book is that Christians should take note when Jews are under attack. When Israel is under attack, Christians are going to be next. And Israel should take note that when Christians are under attack, Israel is going to be next.

Certainly, in my lifetime, what I have seen when the United States blesses, does things helpful to Israel, we seem to be blessed, and when we betray our ally Israel, we don't seem to be blessed. I have looked for a verse like that, that says those who betray Israel will be blessed, and I haven't found that one in the Bible.

The Bible—those of us that have looked into the history of the House of Representatives and the Senate—is the most quoted book in the history of Congress in session on the RECORD. So it is worth looking to things like that.

When I said that running for Congress years ago was a calling, a reporter asked if I heard voices, I told the reporter: "I wish I heard voices." Life would be so much easier if I heard an audible voice telling me what to do. But since I don't hear voices, under my religious beliefs, I seek wisdom by reading the Bible, by praying, and by seeking wise counsel. That is what some of the leaders of Israel obviously have been doing, but they get put into a box.

Four thousand rockets launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip, and why are there people in the Gaza Strip who would do such a thing? It is because Israel, in the hopes of peace, made the unilateral gesture of giving the Gaza Strip, a place where there were so many Jewish Israelis living there—they had wonderful homes, many had greenhouses. They could live there. They could provide for their food there.

Thinking a unilateral gesture would be recognized as an ultimate effort at true peace, Israel handed over the Gaza Strip to Palestinians, and that is not necessarily the Palestinian homeland. But they handed it over, and it wasn't too long before most of the greenhouses were destroyed and tunnels were found. I think 9 miles of tunnels have recently been destroyed that were being used to smuggle things into Israel itself.

That unilateral effort for peace by Israel has ended up being one of the worst nightmares for Israel.

Most days, as I understand it, the rockets are launched. They never know when they are coming. Children live in fear every single day, not knowing if a rocket is going to come their way and kill them. Parents have to have a safe room where, when they hear the siren signaling that bombs are coming, they have to grab their kids and run to the safe room.

Some years back, when I was in Israel and was having a conversation with a mom who lived in Israel, and they had had many rockets come their way, the siren went off. She was in the car. There was no safe room to run to. So her tiny boy—I think he was 5 or 6—she just leaned over and covered him with her body in case the car was hit. It wasn't hit.

When the rocket attack was over, her son was really upset and said: "Mama, please don't ever do that again. If you are going to die from a rocket attack, I want to die with you." That is something the Israelis live with every day.

Rockets are far more sophisticated now than they were when the rocket attacks first started. But as I have pointed out to Prime Minister Netanyahu before, there has never been a time when Israel gave away land trying to buy peace that that land was not used as a staging area from which to attack Israel. That is the way they are rewarded every time they give away land that is under their control.

In the Sinai attacks, they are not launching with rockets from there, but President el-Sisi told me that there were probably more guns per person in the Sinai when he took over as President than any other place he was aware of. There were so many weapons. Once Israel turned that over, it just became a place where there were lots of weapons. There were tunnels into Israel. So, of course, when there are tunnels that allow people to come into Israel with weapons, with ways to kill Israelis, then the Israelis have to use what is known as self-defense.

As far as our history, I read last year that one of the basic goals of BLM was to destroy Western-Style families. And I shrugged to myself, Western-Style families? Those aren't Western-Style families. That came from Moses. Moses said it came from God.

It wasn't Western civilization-style families. It was what Moses said when he said a man shall leave his father and mother, and a woman will leave her

home, and the two will become one. Then when Jesus was asked about marriage and divorce, he quoted Moses verbatim, a man shall leave his father and mother, the woman will leave her home, the two will become one flesh. Then Jesus added a line that Moses had not used, and that is when Jesus said, and what God has joined together, let no one separate or put asunder. Later, the Apostle Paul quoted Moses and Jesus.

So knowing all that, when I hear BLM wants to destroy Western-Style families, they are not Western style. They are Mosaic. They are from Moses, as confirmed by Jesus. This is the best building block for a society, for a civilization.

Naturally, if anyone is going to take us into a totalitarian government, an Orwellian government where—we don't say Big Brother anymore. Orwell called it Big Brother, I will say that. But now, under the current rules of the House, we would say big sibling, big sibling totalitarian government with a ministry of truth that every day rewrites history to make the government look better.

Then, of course, they had the Ministry of Love, so that if you say anything that is different from what the Ministry of Truth said you had to say, then you are picked up by the Ministry of Love and tortured for hours, days, weeks, months, or years until you disclaim what you said about the Ministry of Truth's inaccuracy.

Those are the kinds of things that Orwell wrote about in the late 1940s. He had been through cancer treatment, so some think that is what gave him inspiration for the kind of torture that the Ministry of Love was putting people through. But he went up, as I recall, to Scotland and wrote from a friend's home there the book 1984. As I have said before, the only thing he appears to have gotten wrong was the year; it wasn't 1984. But we are seeing these tactics.

We even have people proposing here at the Capitol that we should have a ministry that specifies exactly what truth is, and then anybody that says anything different than truth that the ministry here or the Federal agency here puts out, they should be able to be arrested for a crime. And I am like, wow, that is right out of Orwell.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS). I love BURGESS OWENS. I am thrilled that he is a Member of Congress, and every day I serve with him, I am more grateful he is here.

HONORING ROGER MORGAN

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I honor a great man, public servant, and Vista Heights Middle School's head custodian, Roger Morgan, from Saratoga Springs, Utah.

When COVID-19 disrupted normalcy last year, Roger did what he always does: He anticipated the needs of others and sprang into action.